

**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
SUPERFUND SITE STRATEGY RECOMMENDATION - REGION 06**

Site Name: Old Brazos Forge

CERCLIS ID#: TXD048901235

Alias Site Names:

Address:

1709 Highway 36 North

City/County or Parish/State/Zip Code:

Brenham, Washington County, Texas

Report Type, Date, and Author:

Expanded Site Inspection, May 2000, TNRCC (ESI/RI)

RECOMMENDATION:

☐ 1. No Further Remedial Action Planned under Superfund (NFRAP)

☐ 2. Further Investigation Needed Under Superfund

☐ PA ☐ HRS ☐ SSI ☐ RA ☐ ESI ☐ RI/FS ☐ SI

To be performed by:

Other:

Priority: ☐ High ☐ Low

3. Action Deferred ☒ RCRA ☐ NRC

NOTIFY AUTHORITY:

☐ Removal

☐ SMCRA

☐ NRC

☐ UIC

☐ RCRA

☐ Remedial

☐ Resource Trustee

☐ SPCC

☐ TSCA

☐ State/Tribe

☐ CERCLA Enforcement ☐ Other

☐ CAA

☐ NPDES

☐ Federal Facility

SEND SSSR COPIES TO:

☐ 6SF-AC

☐ 6WQ-SP

☐ ATSDR

☒ State Agency ☐ Tribal Agency

DISCUSSION:

The Old Brazos Forge (OBF) site is approximately 20 acres in size, and is located in an undeveloped area .3 miles northwest of the city limits of Brenham. OBF was operated as a wire shelving manufacturer from 1965 -1988 by the Hussman Corporation. In 1992 OBF was sold to Recycled Products Corporation (RPC) and subsequently to Reconversion Technologies of Texas, Inc. (Retek). The site is currently inactive.

OBF contains three settling ponds covering 2.4 acres. Potential sources at the site include contaminated soils surrounding the old steel manufacturing and electroplating process areas, as well as the three settling ponds. From 1965 to 1982 untreated cyanide, chromium, copper, zinc and nickel bearing sludges and waste water from electroplating operations was discharged into earthen trenches which carried the wastes to the three unlined settling ponds. During times of heavy rainfall the ponds overflowed into an earthen trench which discharged into an unnamed tributary of Little Sandy Creek. Sludge removal activities were conducted at the ponds in 1984 and the ponds were fenced off to prevent access. Although the ponds were not sampled directly during the ESI, soil and ground water samples adjacent to the pond areas were collected. The migration pathways of concern at the site are the surface water pathway and the ground water pathway.

The aquifer of concern in the ground water pathway is the Jasper aquifer which is the major source of drinking water for private domestic wells in the Brenham area. Twenty-four ground water samples were collected during the ESI, and elevated concentrations of Chromium and Lead were documented in nine separate water wells. Chromium and Lead were both present in source sampling conducted onsite, and were not found in the background samples collected from three water wells upgradient from OBF.

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OBF meets the criteria required for listing on the National Priorities List (NPL) of Federal Superfund sites. However the site is currently undergoing an enforcement action by the State under the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) program. The site will be deferred to the State with the understanding that if there is a problem in the future with the RCRA Enforcement Action, then OBF will be re-evaluated under the Federal Superfund program.

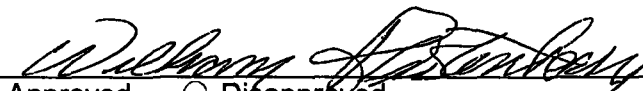
APPROVALS:

Report Reviewed by:

William

Rhotenberry/R6/USEPA/US

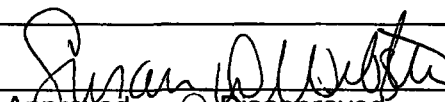
(Site Assessment Manager 6SF-RA)


☒ Approved ☐ Disapproved 05/10/2001

Disposition Recommended by:

Susan Webster/R6/USEPA/US

(Team Leader 6SF-RA)


☒ Approved ☐ Disapproved 05/10/2001